



Climate change, vector-borne disease and interdisciplinary research: Social science perspectives on an environment and health controversy

Author(s): Brisbois BW, Ali SH
Year: 2010
Journal: Ecohealth. 7 (4): 425-438

Abstract:

Over the last two decades, the science of climate change's theoretical impacts on vector-borne disease has generated controversy related to its methodological validity and relevance to disease control policy. Critical social science analysis, drawing on science and technology studies and the sociology of social movements, demonstrates consistency between this controversy and the theory that climate change is serving as a collective action frame for some health researchers. Within this frame, vector-borne disease data are interpreted as a symptom of climate change, with the need for further interdisciplinary research put forth as the logical and necessary next step. Reaction to this tendency on the part of a handful of vector-borne disease specialists exhibits characteristics of academic boundary work aimed at preserving the integrity of existing disciplinary boundaries. Possible reasons for this conflict include the leadership role for health professionals and disciplines in the envisioned interdiscipline, and disagreements over the appropriate scale of interventions to control vector-borne diseases. Analysis of the competing frames in this controversy also allows identification of excluded voices and themes, such as international political economic explanations for the health problems in question. A logical conclusion of this analysis, therefore, is the need for critical reflection on environment and health research and policy to achieve integration with considerations of global health equity.

Source: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1007/s10393-010-0354-6>

Resource Description

Exposure :

weather or climate related pathway by which climate change affects health

Unspecified Exposure

Geographic Feature:

resource focuses on specific type of geography

None or Unspecified

Geographic Location:

resource focuses on specific location

Global or Unspecified

Climate Change and Human Health Literature Portal

Health Impact:

specification of health effect or disease related to climate change exposure

Infectious Disease

Infectious Disease: Vectorborne Disease

Vectorborne Disease: General Vectorborne

Resource Type:

format or standard characteristic of resource

Research Article, Review

Timescale:

time period studied

Time Scale Unspecified